

# BUY RECYCLED: IT'S YOUR BUSINESS

Before you make that next purchase for your business, agency, or nonprofit, read this insert and see if you can buy it with recycled-content! And, if you have or want to start a business that makes recycled-content products, CalMAX listings can show you what materials are out there ready to be recycled into something new!

Products made with recycled materials have become more available, less expensive, and better over the past several years. Specific information about a variety of commonly used recycled-content products is included in this insert's articles on:



Office Paper and Supplies  
Shipping Containers  
Landscaping Products



Toner Cartridges  
Re-Refined Motor Oil  
Construction Materials



## Buying Recycled is Good for Business and the Environment!

Keeping waste out of California landfills is one good reason to buy or make recycled-content products. Recycled-content products also conserve natural resources required for new products and less energy is usually required to produce them.

## Recycled Content ... Pre- or Postconsumer?

Recycled-content products may be made of postconsumer material (which has already been used by a consumer, e.g., paper, bottles, cans, etc.) or preconsumer material (left over from the manufacturing process and traditionally recycled back into the next product). Postconsumer content is what keeps material out of the landfill.

## If You Aren't Buying Recycled, You Aren't Recycling!

Although most of us know how to recycle, many people still don't get the connection between recycling and buying recycled. Collecting recyclable materials keeps them out of our landfills temporarily, but not for very long UNLESS those "recyclable" materials are actually RECYCLED by being made into new products. The bottom line is, if you aren't buying recycled, you aren't recycling!



## How Do I Find Recycled-Content Products?

Before you buy, look at the label or catalog listing to see if the product is recycled or ask your supplier how much recycled content it has and what kind (pre- or postconsumer). You can also find recycled products on the Web (see article at the end of this insert). The more often that consumers, including you, ask for recycled products, the more these products will be produced and the more landfill space, resources, and energy we will all save!

# BUY RECYCLED: IN THE OFFICE

## Recycled Paper: It's a Great Product!

By Andrew Hurst, Business Resource Efficiency and Waste Reduction Program

### Copies, Copies, Copies . . .

Today's recycled-content copier, printer, and printing papers come in a multitude of sizes, colors, weights, and finishes. Studies conducted by the U.S. Conference of Mayors (email: [info@usmayors.org](mailto:info@usmayors.org)) in conjunction with Cannon USA, Hewlett-Packard, Lexmark,



and the U.S. Printing Office show that recycled paper performs just as well in office equipment as paper with no recycled content.

Other office paper supplies are also available with recycled content, including envelopes, file folders, note pads, notebooks, labels, dividers, files boxes, hanging files, index cards, message pads, self-stick notes, and report covers.

### Printing Needs, Large and Small

Many professional print shops will use recycled paper when requested by the customer, so ask them! Several large companies routinely specify recycled content in print projects that include a range of paper types: letterhead, catalogs, ATM receipts, bank statements, full color brochures, annual reports, etc. For more information about business use of recycled paper, visit the Recycled Paper Coalition's Web site, [www.papercoalition.org](http://www.papercoalition.org). Coalition members include a wide range of companies who find it cost-effective to use recycled-content paper as part of their marketing strategies or who are seeking to meet the environmental commitment in their corporate mission. If they can do it, so can you!

### Recycled Paper's on a Roll

Another popular use of recycled paper is in janitorial and sanitary supplies: bathroom tissues, paper towels, facial tissues, napkins, etc. Unbeknownst to many consumers, these types of paper have a long history of including both pre- and postconsumer recycled fiber, regardless of whether that content is explicitly stated on their packaging. To help promote recycled-content products, be sure to ask for the highest postconsumer percentage available.



### Pricing and Purchasing Strategies

Some grades of recycled-content paper are less expensive, some cost the same, and some cost a little more. Reducing paper consumption by adjusting policies, procedures, and habits can often offset any additional costs. Also, the marginal increased cost may be justified as part of a comprehensive environmental policy or marketing strategy.

You can also join a purchasing cooperative, such as the Recycled Products Purchasing Cooperative ([www.recycledproducts.org](http://www.recycledproducts.org)). In



addition, you can set up a less formal cooperative with other businesses and pool your purchasing power to make bulk purchases. As demand for recycled content increases, more paper will be manufactured, lowering price and increasing availability.

For more information about recycled-content paper, contact Andrew Hurst, (916) 255-2624, [ahurst@ciwmb.ca.gov](mailto:ahurst@ciwmb.ca.gov), <http://www.ciwmb.ca.gov/Paper/>

# BUY RECYCLED: IN THE OFFICE

## Shopping for Supplies And Furniture?

By Maggie Coulter, CalMAX

Many office products and furniture are now made with recycled content. More and more, recycled plastic is used to make binders, in-



boxes, trash cans, pens, tape dispensers, rulers, pen and pencil holders, bulletin boards, business card holders, drawer dividers, plastic bags, and other office products.

Also, look for rubber floor mats, mouse pads, and coasters made from recycled tires. Reformatted computer discs are also available.

Some electronic equipment is refurbished, and much of it utilizes some recycled-content materials, particularly steel, which has been recycled in the U.S. since World War II. Recycled steel is also used in paper clips, staplers, hole-punches, etc.

You can save by buying refurbished or recycled-content office furniture. Refurbishing includes repairing, repainting and/or reupholstering used furniture so that it looks like new. The cost of refurbished chairs



and modular space dividers can be half that of new ones. Also ask for office partition carpet and fabric made from recycled plastic.

When you order your next office supplies, ask if your supplier can provide the items you want with postconsumer material. Several office catalogs now indicate whether products are recycled. If yours does not, inform the catalog distributors that you prefer to buy recycled and would like that information in their next catalog!



## Recharge That Cartridge

By Rick Hicks, State Agency Buy Recycled Campaign

Are you using recharged toner and ink cartridges for computer printers and facsimile machines? If not, you are missing a chance to save money and the environment. Advances in the technology for recharging toner cartridges have resulted in superior products that are approved for use in most printers and copiers by nearly all equipment manufacturers. In fact, many manufacturers will take your used cartridges back to be refurbished. The best part is that recharged cartridges usually cost less than new ones!



Using reinked printer ribbons and refilled ink jet cartridges will also save money and resources. You can have printer ribbons re-inked for less than the cost of a new ribbon. Kits for refilling ink jet cartridges are available at many office supply stores, and some companies collect them for refilling. To find companies that specialize in these products, check your telephone book's yellow pages under "Computers." Utilizing these options will conserve resources and save you money.

For more information about buying recycled office products, contact Rick Hicks, (916) 255- 3287; rhicks@ciwmb.ca.gov.

# BUY RECYCLED: IN TRANSPORT

## Pack and Ship with Recycled Content

By Marylou Taylor, Recycling Technologies Program

### Boxes and Cartons

More than 90 percent of all shipping containers are highly recycled corrugated cardboard boxes. With advanced paper-making



techniques and new edge crush test standards in the industry, box manufacturers have increased the amount of postconsumer

material. More box manufacturers are offering product lines that are 100 percent postconsumer.

An alternative to cardboard is plastic, which does cost more upfront. However, the higher cost can be offset because these products are more reusable, durable, and versatile and their lighter weight reduces shipping costs. Many companies have successfully implemented use of reusable plastic containers, particularly those who have "closed loop" transportation systems to help with efficiencies.

### Pallets

Remanufactured wood pallets are available in comparable price and quality to new. Pallets made from recycled plastic can be found in a wide variety of designs, dimensions, and composite materials. They are easier to wash and clean and less susceptible to contamination than untreated wood.

The higher initial cost is offset by long term savings.



### Packing Material

Both paper and plastic materials are used to cushion products inside containers during shipment. Recycled-content plastic packing

material may not be as widely available as nonrecycled packing products. Other possibilities are the use of shredded paper, crumpled corrugated cardboard, and previously used packing material.

For more information on shipping materials, contact Marylou Taylor, (916) 255-2452, [mtaylor@ciwmb.ca.gov](mailto:mtaylor@ciwmb.ca.gov).

## Make a Re-Refined Oil Change !

By Carol Mortensen & Jim Robinson, Used Oil Program

You can do something good for the environment and your company's cars by using re-refined motor oil. Certified by the American Petroleum Institute and endorsed by several major car manufacturers, re-refined motor oil is equivalent in every aspect and meets the same performance standards as oil produced directly from crude. Oil does not break down when used or in the refining process. It is simply cleaned of impurities and formulated to meet specifications; the end product is then ready for another round of high performance.



Nearly 10,000 vehicles serviced in the State garage have been using re-refined oil with great results since 1994. Many private companies have also realized the benefits of re-refined oil and switched their fleets.

By buying re-refined oil, you help reduce the many negative environmental effects associated with the extraction and processing of crude oil and the disposal of used oil. Ask for re-refined when you get your organization's vehicles serviced and when buying your own oil.

For more information on rerefined oil, contact Jim Robinson, (916) 255-2657, [jrobinson@ciwmb.ca.gov](mailto:jrobinson@ciwmb.ca.gov), <http://www.ciwmb.ca.gov/UsedOil/>

# BUY RECYCLED: FOR THE YARD

## Landscaping with Recycled Materials

By Mike Leanon & Kevin Taylor, Organic Materials Program

Landscape architects and maintenance contractors do not need to look far to find high quality, recycled-content products at comparable or lower cost than new.

### Save with Urban Compost and Mulch!

Urban compost is made from landscape trimmings that are composted locally and then sold at reasonable cost to the public. Urban mulch comes from shredded yard trimmings and/or wood chips and is sometimes available free of charge from local utility companies, tree trimmers, and landscape contractors. Since organic materials make up a third of California's waste stream, there is plenty of supply! Landscapers can also make their own compost and mulch, which cuts transportation and disposal costs and allows for the on-site reuse of organic materials.



Use of urban compost and mulch is often less expensive than the equivalent forest product. It improves soil structure, organic matter content, and nutrient-holding capacity. Urban compost also provides additional nutrients, inhibits some diseases, and helps control erosion and suppresses weeds. The resulting



improved plant growth and performance cuts the need (and cost) for fertilizer and herbicides.



### Landscaping Supplies

Many landscaping materials are now made from recycled-content products, including:

- Bender board from recycled plastic.
- Picnic tables and benches from commingled plastic waste. They do need to be built with shorter spans, but if supported properly, require less maintenance and are more graffiti-resistant than wood.



- Tree stakes from recycled plastic lumber, and tree ties from tire strips.



- Playground equipment from recycled plastic requires little maintenance and has safer rounded edges to reduce injuries.

- Rubber mats from recycled tires can be used to cover outdoor patios, loading areas, and paths, and as a protective surface under playground equipment.

- Paving stones from plastic mixed with sand for steps; flexible pavers from recycled tires; and bricks from foundry and underground tank clean-up sand.

- Pots, containers, and raised beds for plants are available in recycled plastic.



For a list of urban compost and mulch suppliers, check out [www.ciwmb.ca.gov/Organics/](http://www.ciwmb.ca.gov/Organics/) or request a copy of the "Compost and Mulch Source List" from the CIWMB Organic Materials Management Program, (916) 255-2410. For more information on compost and mulch, contact Mike Leanon (916) 255-2464, [mleon@ciwmb.ca.gov](mailto:mleon@ciwmb.ca.gov),

# BUY RECYCLED: FOR BUILDING

## Building with Recycled Materials

By Mark Fong, C & D Recycling Technologies Section

### Aggregate

Recycled aggregate is made from crushing used or leftover concrete and asphalt. Readily available at comparable cost to new, it is used to make "new" asphalt and concrete for roads, bridges, utility trenches, and building foundations and for gravel roads.



By using portable crushers on-site, material can be immediately reused.

### Particleboard

Several companies now make particleboard from wheat straw, which was traditionally burned after harvesting. Produced in four- and eight-foot sheets with tongue-and-groove or lap joints, it can be laminated with various surface veneers. Wheat straw particleboard is equal to, or greater than, wood-based in moisture resistance and structural strength, with a comparable cost.

### Ceramic Tiles

Recycled ceramic tile is made from waste glass and traditional ceramic materials. The tiles come in standard sizes, are freeze-thaw stable, and suitable for floors, walls, and counter tops and are available from tile supply outlets. Cost is comparable to high-end tile products.



### Restroom Partitions

Recycled-plastic restroom partitions are durable and low-maintenance and will outlast the traditional metal type. Drawn graffiti is easier to remove. The hard surface makes carving graffiti harder to do and easier to repair. With comparable initial cost, recycled partitions are a good buy.

### Insulation

Various types of insulation materials with high percentages of recycled content are widely available including cellulose insulation (either loose-fill or spray-on), recycled fiberglass insulation, and mineral wool insulation (made from iron ore blast furnace slag). All types of recycled insulation are cost competitive with traditional products.

### Paint

Recycled latex paint is made in many grades and colors by several paint companies, at comparable quality and usually lower cost than new. Recycled paint can be sprayed, rolled, or brushed on just like any other paint. Some local government household hazardous waste collection programs also offer the public low- or no-cost mixed paint.

### Carpeting

Recycled-content carpets are widely available in many different patterns and colors, and at comparable quality to nonrecycled carpets. An alternative is refurbished carpet, made by deep cleaning and re-dyeing used carpet.

Recycled carpet backing is also available.

### Green Building Products For A Sustainable California:

A free workshop presented by the CIWMB

**North:** Tuesday, May 9, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. KVIE Channel 6 Studio, Community Room, 2595 Capitol Oak Drive, Sacramento

**South:** Monday, May 22, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sportsmen's Lounge Hotel, 12825 Ventura Blvd., Studio City

For more information contact Kelly Smith, (916) 448-9651.

For more information on recycled-content construction materials, contact Mark Fong, (916) 255-2495, [mfong@ciwmb.ca.gov](mailto:mfong@ciwmb.ca.gov), <http://www.ciwmb.ca.gov/ConDemo/>.

# BUY RECYCLED: FOR BUILDING

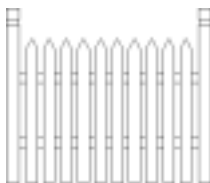
## Recycled Plastic Lumber: A Versatile and Durable Wood Substitute

By Edgar Rojas, C & D Recycling Technologies Program

With the advent of new recycling technologies, millions of pounds of formerly undesirable plastics are being reprocessed into recycled plastic lumber. Its important properties, such as light weight, very low water absorption, and fungal and bacterial resistance, make this product a good substitute for wood, concrete, and metals. Currently plastic lumber costs more than wood, but is virtually maintenance free and lasts longer. Readers of *American Homestyle and Gardening Magazine* choose a wood/plastic lumber blend as 1999's most popular home product.

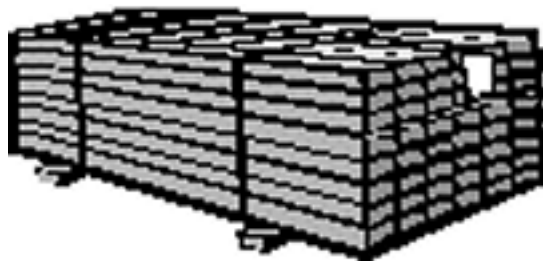
### Construction

Recycled plastic lumber can be substituted for wood in decking, benches, furniture, trim, fencing, handrails, signs, play structures, piers, docks, retaining walls, stair treads, and other uses. Unlike wood, plastic lumber won't crack, split, splinter, rot, warp, leach, erode, or weather. It can be nailed, screwed, and cut with standard carpentry tools. It does not require painting, staining, or sealing and, can also be recycled into new products.



### Agriculture

Agricultural uses for recycled plastic lumber include construction of drinking troughs, feeders, posts, fencing, and waste flooring of stalls (in stalls, it is more resistant than wood to urine and excreta and easier to clean than concrete). In the related field of industrial horticulture, uses include seedbeds, larger flowerpots, plant boxes, trays, and poles for vine support. Nonlumber recycled plastic materials are also used in profiles, ducting, drainage pipes, spacers, and water traps.



### Transportation

Recycled plastic lumber can be used for railroad ties, sign posts, and barricades. It is also utilized to form the outside of a wall of a sound barrier. The inside space is filled with earth, which is subsequently planted with shrubs. The design of the forms can be varied to suit the shape and size of the environment to be protected. Recycled plastic is also used in traffic cones, bollards, and car stops.

### Water

Marine and hydraulic applications are ideal for recycled plastic lumber because of its high resistance to moisture. Large plank-like profiles are used as tide breaks for coastal protection. Poles and plank-shaped profiles serve for retention and decorative purposes at the edges of small ponds and waters in residential areas. Structures made of mixed plastic waste have been manufactured to provide habitats for fish breeding in coastal areas.



### Other Uses

Recycled plastic lumber is also used for commercial display panels and landscaping and shipping pallets (see other articles in this insert).

For additional information about the different kinds of recycled plastic lumber and their uses, contact Edgar Rojas, (916) 255-2585, [erojas@ciwmb.ca.gov](mailto:erojas@ciwmb.ca.gov).

# BUY RECYCLED: ONLINE

## Find (and Put Your) Recycled-Content Products on the Web

By Linda Hennessy, RCP Database Coordinator

Now that we all know about the environmental and economic merits of purchasing recycled-content products, where can we find them? One way to find recycled products is to use the online CIWMB Recycled-Content Products (RCP) database, which is accessible through our Web site ([www.ciwmb.ca.gov/RCP/](http://www.ciwmb.ca.gov/RCP/)). The RCP database includes manufacturers, processors, and distributors of recycled-content products. Currently more than 3,000 companies and 6,500 products are listed. The database is flexible and user-friendly, allowing users to search by product, brand name, company name, and product category.



Some of the products in the database include:



**Paper products:** Printing, writing, computer, and janitorial paper (paper towels, tissue, etc.).

**Office Products:** Binders; pens; clipboards; desktop accessories; and containers for recycling.

**Household Products:** Indoor and outdoor furniture including benches and picnic tables; hangers; dustpans; clocks; placemats; picture frames; etc.

**Public Spaces:** Boardwalks, docks, decking, fence posts, mailbox posts, sign posts, rails, stakes, gates, planter boxes, etc.

**Construction Products:** Paint, lumber, doors, windows, siding, paneling, molding, flooring, carpeting, furnishings, insulation, etc.

**Products Made From Recycled Tires:** Rubber surfacing for driveways, parking lots, paths; safety surfaces for playgrounds, athletic surfaces, and running tracks; soil enhancement products to reduce compaction and water consumption; indoor and outdoor floor tiles, mats, and animal flooring; and mouse pads and coasters.

### Other Sources of Product Information

- Information on suppliers of recycled products is also available to government entities at <http://pub.fss.gsa.gov/enviro/recycled-prod.html> (Federal General Services Administration).
- For links to other buy recycled information, go to [www.ciwmb.ca.gov/BuyRecycled/Links.htm](http://www.ciwmb.ca.gov/BuyRecycled/Links.htm).
- To find out about businesses that specialize in collecting and selling used or recycled building materials, check out [www.ciwmb.ca.gov/ConDemo/Products/](http://www.ciwmb.ca.gov/ConDemo/Products/).

For more information about the RCP database, contact  
Linda Hennessy, (916)255-2498, [lhennessy@ciwmb.ca.gov](mailto:lhennessy@ciwmb.ca.gov).